

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 USIA-15 NSCE-00 NSC-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 894

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL CH

SUBJ: CHINESE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION

REF: STATE 196102

1. CANADIAN EMBOFF BRIAN EVANS INFORMED US OCTOBER 26 THAT CHINESE HAVE SUGGESTED BEGINNING DISCUSSIONS ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXHIBIT NEXT MONTH. EVANS SAID HE THOUGHT CANADIANS WOULD ACCEPT ONE CITY APPROACH, BUT NOTED THAT THEY HAD NOT YET FORMALLY BROACHED WITH CHINESE QUESTION OF HAVING TOKYO SHOW ON WEST COAST AND EUROPEAN SHOW IN EAST. HE STILL CONSIDERED THAT A POSSIBILITY, BUT WAS DOUBTFUL THE CHINESE WOULD BUY IT.

2. HE SAID TRUDEAU PARTY DID NOT RAISE QUESTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXHIBIT DURING PM'S RECENT VISIT. APPARENTLY, CHINESE RECENTLY INDICATED THEY PREFERRED TO SEND JAPANESE EXHIBIT TO CANADA, AND CANADIANS WERE HAPPY SIMPLY TO HAVE NAILED DOWN THE EUROPEAN SHOW AGAIN.

3. EVANS SAID SWEDES HAVE COMPLETED THEIR NEGOTIATIONS AND AUSTRIANS IN THE PROCESS OF DOING SO. EXHIBIT WILL GO FIRST TO AUSTRIA AND THEN TO SWEDEN. FROM THERE, EVANS SAID, HE THOUGHT IT WOULD PROCEED DIRECTLY TO
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CANADA WITHOUT REFURBISHING TRIP TO PEKING MENTIONED

REFTEL. (EVANS FEELS SCHEDULE AS IT NOW STANDS WOULD NOT PERMIT). SWEDES AND AUSTRIANS HAVE ACCEPTED SHORTENED STAYS OF SIXTY-SIX DAYS FOR EXHIBITION, AND APPARENTLY BRITISH WERE ALSO PRESSURED TO DO SAME. BRITISH SUCCESSFULLY RESISTED, ARGUING THAT FULL THREE MONTHS NECESSARY TO RECOUP EXPENSES. CHINESE HAVE NOW EXPLAINED TO SWEDES AND AUSTRIANS THAT FRENCH AND BRITISH GOT LONGER STAYS SINCE THEY BORE BRUNT OF TRAVEL COSTS FROM CHINA. CANADIANS PLAN TO RESIST ANY ATTEMPT TO SHORTEN THEIR EXHIBITION WITH SAME ARGUMENT AS BRITISH.

4. CHINESE REMAIN VERY CONCERNED ABOUT SECURITY OF EXHIBIT AND HAVE BEEN VERY TOUGH IN DISCUSSIONS WITH AUSTRIANS. IN INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH CANADIANS, MFA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT DEPUTY DIRECTOR HSIAO T'EH NOTED THE UNIQUE NATURE OF THE JADE BODY SUIT AND THE FLYING HORSE, CAUSING EVANS TO WONDER IF THEY WERE THINKING ABOUT REPLACING THEM IN THE SHOW AND RETURNING THEM TO CHINA. BRUCE

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